

PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

Room 214 - City Hall

Newark, N.J.

Leo F. Carlin, Mayor  
Daniel S. Anthony, Dir.  
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FROM DANIEL S. ANTHONY, DIRECTOR - MITCHELL 3-6300, Ext. 201

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The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations of Newark, New Jersey released today the final volume, including the major findings and recommendations of a one year survey on changing neighborhoods and intergroup relations in Newark. The research was done by Mariott Planning Corporation of New York City.

The purpose of the \$30,000.00 study is to produce facts and opinions concerning life in Newark which will aid the Mayor and his Group Relations Commission in eliminating prejudice and guaranteeing equal rights for all groups in the City.

The three volume, 630 page survey called "Newark - A City in Transition" is the most complete exploration of human relations ever accomplished in any American city. The basis for the findings was 4,028 interviews conducted with heads of households throughout every neighborhood in Newark.

Daniel M. Anthony, director of the Commission in commenting on the study said, "The transition" is descriptive of the mobility of the Negro population of Newark. Whereas, most of Newark's Negroes lived in the central core of the city in 1950, just eight years later, more than half of the total has moved to more desirable neighborhoods. The report indicates that this diffusion of Newark's largest minority group throughout the city has been accompanied by a better understanding between Negroes and whites living in the integrated neighborhoods".

Despite these striding changes in the racial composition of Newark, there has been little alteration in the total population. The report adds, Newark, like all other Northern urban centers, has undergone an exodus to the suburbs. As is typical, this flight to suburbia, accounts for a shift in the balance of population. Newark has undergone this transition very peacefully. There has been none of the severe racial tension and conflict which has occurred in many large Northern cities. In fact, "The majority of both whites and Negroes feel that races always get along well in Newark".

The rapidly changing racial composition of Newark does not appear to have influenced an undue proportion of its population to make plans for moving. The presence of Negroes in white neighborhoods was of much less importance than factors unrelated to race in the decision of whites to move. Only 16% of whites who planned to move said they did not want to live near Negroes.

Awareness of any disharmony between religious groups in Newark is practically non-existent. Only 1% of either group report such awareness.

The research also pointed out a "high degree of contact between whites and Negroes in the city. Two thirds of all whites and 89% of Negroes have had some kind of interracial contacts". Many of these contacts doubtless take place because of the wide-spread integration of Negroes in most sections of the city.

On the other hand this survey indicates that Negroes and Puerto Ricans must pay premium prices in most areas for their homes and apartments. Almost 3/4 of the Negroes say they pay more in rent than whites for the same kind of apartments. The reasons they offer relate mostly to gouging by landlords or to the construction of rent barriers to keep Negroes out of certain housing or neighborhoods.

Because housing presents the most pressing problem in intergroup relations in Newark, Market Planning Corporation recommends a mobilization of all city government resources and the local housing industry to fight rent gouging and housing discrimination against minority groups.

Mariano J. Rinaldi, Business Administrator, in the absence of Mayor Leo P. Carlin said, "Mayor Carlin is well aware of the rent gouging indicated in the research and has already taken steps to correct the condition. He has alerted department heads involved in the problem to an all-out campaign to halt the damaging practices of the exploiters."

"He has also procured the agreement of the local real estate board to co-operate with him in citing any members who violate their code of ethics in this regard. But he firmly believes that a strong rent control law is still the best solution to the problem."

#### RENT EXPLOITATION OF MINORITIES

A comparison of rental figures by individual neighborhoods shows that in the areas in which the largest number of Negro and Puerto Rican renters live-- Central Ward, Central Business-South Broad St., Clinton Hill and West Ward--the average monthly rent paid by them is higher than that paid by whites.

Newark's minorities, though they pay higher rents in these areas, are not getting larger apartments for the extra money. Furthermore, they are slightly less likely than whites to have private toilet facilities, which raises the possibility that they may even be getting poorer facilities for more money.

Mr. Anthony said, "This survey has been a tremendous aid to our group relations agency in planning for the future. We are now preparing a program aimed at dispelling the widespread belief that property values decline because Negroes move into white neighborhoods. Home owners must begin to realize that whites moving out of neighborhoods is the major cause of devaluation and not the fact that Negroes move in."

"Numerous studies by real estate appraisers and private foundations have shown that values remain firm if whites do not panic and flee after the first Negro families move into a previously all white neighborhood," Anthony said.

#### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS - THE SCHOOLS

In its examination of Newark's school system, Market Planning Corporation finds that relatively few of Newark's heads of households are dissatisfied with the extent of integration. 52% of Negroes are satisfied, while 17% think that more integration is needed. The Survey team recommends that the Commission should investigate further to determine the validity of the complaints registered by this minority of the Negro population.

#### THE POLICE

Market Planning Corporation finds that "stories about police discrimination, physical abuse, unfair arrests and to a lesser extent, laxness in the protection of Negroes are widespread and have been heard by almost half of the Negro community. The majority of Negro complainants, however, do not indict the police force as a whole, but pin the blame on individual officers."

The researchers recommend programs to improve relations between the police force and the Negro citizens, such as human relations workshops and the careful assignment of Negro and white policemen in the various neighborhoods, plus a public relations program to improve attitudes toward the police force. They suggest that the Mayor's Commission and other human relations agencies in the community should collaborate with the Police Department in solving these problems.

### CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

The content of the study falls into two general sections. Volume I describes the residents of Newark in terms of the areas in which they presently live as well as where they came from and where they plan to move to, their racial or ethnic background, their ages, the amount of money they make, the rent they pay and facts on their housing.

Volume II is concerned with the attitudes and opinions of the heads of Newark's households on matters of group relations. What attitudes do white and Negroes have toward each other - estimates of racial, religious or nationality problems in the city, and opinions about the equality of public services.

Volume III is a summary of the major findings with Market Planning Corporation's recommendations to the City of Newark.

### BACKGROUND OF PRESENT STUDY

In May of 1957, the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations contracted Dr. Chester Rapkin of the University of Pennsylvania to make a preliminary study of the City. Dr. Rapkin, with the assistance of George and Eunice Orier, completed "Group Relations in Newark 1957" in September of that year.

On the basis of this study, the Commission on Group Relations, determined that the basic human relations questions of the city involved population and neighborhood changes. Six major national research organizations were asked to submit bids for a survey of these changes and the attitudes of the people of Newark concerning many aspects of community relations in their neighborhoods and the city at large.

Market Planning Corporation, a research affiliate of McCann Erickson, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, was chosen to conduct the survey. The general purpose of the study reflects the objectives of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to foster the growth of healthy relationships between the many groups which make up Newark, and to reduce prejudice and discrimination wherever they may exist.